

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office

From: Robin Bass
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Saturday, November 23, 2013

To: Sheriff Wendell Hall

RE: Encounter with Sgt. Snow

Dear Sheriff Hall,

I have been a lifelong resident of Santa Rosa County. My parents, N.L. and Mildred Golden lived, farmed, and raised their family in Jay. I likewise have resided and raised my two sons in the same hometown.

When election time came around, I cast my vote for you in full confidence and trust that you would provide safety for me and my family and look out for our best interests. Therefore, I found the events that unfolded in my home yesterday morning to be very disturbing. I fully trust you to help me get to the bottom of this and get the situation righted again.

Yesterday morning my ex-husband came to my home to pick my 15 year old son up. My son refused to go with him, so he told my son he would talk to him again in a few minutes and drove away. After a few minutes passed, a "restricted" number called my phone and I answered. The person identified himself as Sgt. Snow. He proceeded to tell me how my son was to be *made* to go with his dad and that his behavior needed to be modified by his tail being whipped. He further asked if we could resolve this situation or if he needed to send out an officer. He then said he would talk to my son. I put my son on the phone and they talked for several minutes. When my son hung the phone up, he said the officer had told him he would arrest him for contempt if he did not go with his dad. My son left.

Around noon, I tried to contact Sgt. Snow to find out what had actually been said. The dispatcher informed me that he was in training and could not be reached. I would have to call back on Tuesday. I then placed a call to Lt. Todd Smith to inquire as to whether my son could be arrested or not. He said he definitely could not be arrested.

Last night when I was able to talk to my son again, he stated that Sgt. Snow had told him that he would come up here and watch both his parents beat his butt. He further stated that Sgt. Snow had told him that he would go to the judge and get an order to haul his butt to jail. When my son went out to his dad's truck yesterday morning, his dad had Sgt. Snow on the speaker phone and he continued to further order my son to get into the truck.

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I find all of this very alarming and disturbing. This incident has undermined me as a parent trying to teach my son to trust and respect the law. After being lied to, threatened, and coerced by an officer that he had expected to protect him in an abusive situation, he has lost all faith. I am asking for your help in restoring his trust again.

I would further like for the Sheriff's Department to be aware that although there are no laws protecting the psychologically abused, it is extremely dangerous to threaten and force a child to go into an abusive situation. It increases the rate of underage crime and suicide. That is what these kids do when they can't cope with the mental stress any longer. There are studies to prove that psychological abuse affects the child as bad if not worse than physical abuse. When they are constantly pushed to the edge, they will act out criminally. And when they get pushed over the edge, they *do* take their lives rather than continue to exist in the wretched, hopeless, endless, state they are in. No one helps these kids. They fall through the cracks of the legal system. When an adult is in such a situation and seeks help, they are advised to cut ties and flee. When an innocent child is unfortunate enough to have a parent with a sociopathic profile, they are told that they have to keep a relationship with that person. The children are the most vulnerable, and violated, victims of these narcissistic types. The legal system enables and supports the sociopathic parent's rights to the child/children. The result is detrimental and devastating; sometimes it even costs the life of the child. So, in a situation like yesterday morning, when Officer Snow became involved and threatened my child to force him go with such a person, who is responsible if that child commits some act of violence as a result of this? Wouldn't this be a liability for your Department? If an officer finds it his place to become involved, could he not consider more than just one side of the story before coercing? Shouldn't the welfare of the child be of the utmost importance, rather than the whining of a parent about a violation of his/her visitation rights? After all, isn't the judge the one that makes the calls concerning visitation fulfillment?

According to what the dispatcher stated, Sgt. Snow will not be on duty again until Tuesday. Do you have a time that I could bring my son and we could meet with you and Sgt. Snow to determine what happened here and to hopefully restore my son's trust in the system? I am confident that this will be handled quickly and professionally, as you are of high regard among the citizens you serve. I will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,



Robin Bass